

# Press-Herald

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## Is It Really Needed?

Come next Feb. 8. Torrance taxpayers will be asked to approve a \$12,500,000 bond issue for construction of classrooms and other new facilities in the Torrance Unified School District.

The Board of Education arrived at the \$12.5 million figure after a study of a "want list" which included more than \$17 million in proposed school facilities.

A close look at some of the projects included in the final proposal suggests some additional cutting might be warranted.

The Press-Herald concurs in the need for additional classrooms. All too often, however, the additional classrooms are just a part of a bigger package presented to voters in an "all or nothing" fashion—and the voters, aware of the need for those classrooms, have been reluctant to turn down the bond proposals.

The result, in many instances, has been to give school officials a blank check for the construction of school facilities for once approved by the voters, bond funds may be used for virtually any project which the Board of Education determines to use them.

It might be wise to remember that bond funds are always repaid with local taxes, usually over a period of 20 or 25 years during the current fiscal year, for example, nearly one-fourth of all property taxes paid to the Torrance schools will be used to repay bonds sold in previous years.

Torrance has undergone rapid and tremendous growth in the past two decades and the city's taxpayers have been hard pressed to keep pace with the need for basic educational facilities.

But the need must be balanced with the ability of the city's homeowners to provide funds.

Among the many projects included in the \$12.5 million proposed are conference rooms in each of the city's 33 elementary schools. At \$3,000 each, these rooms will cost more than \$100,000. Another \$34,000 has been earmarked to darken six classrooms in each elementary school. And another \$75,000 is to be used for additional bleachers for the North High football stadium.

The largest single item in the list is a proposed vocational education center to be built on land now owned by the U. S. Navy. Proposed originally as a regional center, the vocational education facility was supposed to be a cooperative venture involving several area school districts. Now, however, Torrance taxpayers are being asked to provide \$3 million for the center.

There is a need for such a center, but what has happened to the original concept? With more pressing needs in the basic educational program, is this the time to consider such a large expenditure?

There is much that could be done for Torrance schools, and there is much that must be done. But what is wanted should not be confused with what is needed.

The Press-Herald will listen carefully to the arguments in the coming weeks.

We must be convinced that every penny is needed. Failing that, we suggest the request be rejected.

## OTHERS SAY:

### A Sickening Salute

November 11 is the day a grateful nation salutes its war veterans. For its preservation, they all made a sacrifice; some comparatively small, some the ultimate. All did what their country asked of them. How do we salute those veterans these days, however?

With the sheep-like babble of kooks, commies and college kids trying to halt the shipment of supplies to men who are fighting and dying in Viet Nam?

With the mad May Second Movement's campaign to send medical supplies to the Viet Cong.

With the childish, contemptuous torch of burning draft cards.

As an antidote, let a disgusted nation turn to men on the firing line for a revivifying inspiration; to the words, for instance, of Corporal R. H. Bendig, a San Francisco marine in South Viet Nam:

"If we will not fight this war in the name of democracy, let us fight it in the name of humanity."

Or the words of another Marine, Pfc. Bernard J. Masny of Chicago, in the last letter home he wrote before being killed in action against the Viet Cong:

"Being in South Viet Nam does not strain our American ideals, it fulfills our ideals.

"A person may curse out his country, but if he had been here he would kiss the soil of the United States. People never know how good they have it until they go to war."

Some of us certainly don't, Bernie.—California Feature Service.

It's hard to drive in today's congested traffic in a lawful manner and adopt a "turn-the-other-cheek" attitude towards the deliberate violator. It's hard to resist the feeling that "if he can get away with it, so can I." It takes a strong person to keep his or her temper when taken advantage of by a willful violator. But it takes real guts to keep from joining him.—Delphi (Ind.) Journal.

The so-called Great Society is that strange society under which wives as well as husbands must work to support their families to pay their taxes so that the government can spend billions of dollars to support families that don't work at all.—Woodville (Miss.) Republican.

There is an old hillbilly saying that goes, "Them as has gets." This has been working out in the early stages of the so-called anti-poverty program in which the top share of many fund allotments is gobbled up by the directors and top echelon of hired assistants before the funds ever do filter down to the poor persons who need it.—Webster City (Iowa) Freeman Journal.

## What Are They Protesting, Man?



STAN DELAPLANE

## Camper-Truck Best for Extended European Trip

"We are in our twenties, good health, no children, unlimited time, limited money. How can we travel half a year in Europe? Can we work?"

For working, you must ask the consulates of the countries. The general rule is you can't take a job as long as there's a citizen of that country out of work who can fill it. When I was living in England, my passport was stamped on entry—"Not permitted to work."

However, there are Americans working in some countries—I see quite a few in France. So it's not impossible.

Now for travel: An inexpensive way is by camper-truck (I get reports regularly from two couples who are doing this). Get the camper on a guaranteed purchase basis—that is, they buy it back at used car price when you are through with it. The amount is agreed in advance, based on time and mileage. You must invest in the camper. But maybe you can finance it. Ask Bank of America's branch in London.

For camper-truck prices, write Wilson's Motor Caravan Centre, 36-38 Acre Lane, London, S.W. 2, England. Their catalogue is marked three shillings and sixpence. So you'd better send them an international postal order for 50 cents.

People touring with these give me costs ranging from \$6 a day for two in Spain to \$10 in France. That's gas, maintenance, food, entertainment—everything. And I don't know anything to beat it. There are camping places all over Europe. The national tourist bureaus all have lists they'll send you. Get a rig that gets the mileage. Gas in Europe runs 50 to 80 cents a gallon.

## Morning Report:

The Census Bureau, which normally concerns itself with counting noses, TV sets, autos, and bathtubs, has entered a new field. Its latest survey shows there are at least 6,000,000 liars in the United States.

The interviewers didn't come out and ask us loyal householders, "Are you a liar?" That would be unconstitutional. But they did ask if we had voted in the last Presidential election. And, according to the sampling, six million, who didn't get near a voting booth, said they did.

I would like to defend the liars. We are not dishonest, just helpful. We always tell the man at the door what he wants to hear. Government men clearly are in favor of citizens who do their duty on election day.

Abe Mellinkoff

"My daughter is going to be married in France at Christmas. My income is small and I need an inexpensive way to get there."

The only cut-rate airline is Icelandic, offices in New York. (Good line, good safety record.) Now in winter months, there are occasional ships that have special low rates. You find out these by asking any travel agent. If one doesn't have what you want on file, ask another.

"I understand the airlines have a new baggage allowance. Is it over the 44 lbs. that we were allowed?"

I can't quite get this sorted out. There are new allowances, but each line seems to be making its own complicated rules. Generally, they seem to allow you two pieces in the baggage compartment, regardless of weight. One piece under your seat. Better ask the line though. The pieces cannot exceed certain measurements.

"What happens if we go to Mexico without a smallpox vaccination?"

The airline won't let you leave the U.S. Most European countries require that you be vaccinated before they let you in. If you lose your yellow health certificates while you are overseas, the airline will have you vaccinated before they let you on a plane leaving for the U.S.

Vaccinations and inoculations are most important now. Airline bring people in so fast, diseases don't have time to develop before the person has passed through health inspection and made a lot of contacts. I've been in Europe through three smallpox and one typhoid

epidemics. The pre-trip shots give you a feeling of security.

"If we go to Mexico City, will we have medical problems? I hear everybody does."

Everybody doesn't. I have not for several years—many times in Mexico. If you do get "Montezuma's revenge," there are several doctors in the Del Prado Hotel who must be getting rich, specializing in this tourist complaint. (They tell me if you are over 30, your chances of missing it are 10 times better. You've built up some immunity. So take heart and drink bottled water.)

"How do you see a bull fight in Mexico? How much? What time? How long?"

See the Sunday fights at the big ring, Plaza Mexico. Your hotel will get tickets—about \$3 on the shady side. They start at 4 o'clock. Ends about 6. Take a coat. It's warm when you start. Gets cold about the last fight when the sun goes down.

## WILLIAM HOGAN

## New Political Thriller Updates 'Ugly American'

"Sarkhan, a political thriller by William J. Lederer and the late Eugene Burdick, is tense, audacious and controversial, as 'The Ugly American' was seven years before it.

This is a documentary novel loosely based on some real and bitter mistakes in our recent history. It will make many readers mad, some for wrong reasons. This is an exercise in political science, Southeast Asia style vs. United States State Department-Pentagon style. The twain will never meet, the authors suggest, until some highly placed U.S. experts and advisors find out more about the mentality of men in the world beyond the shores of the Potomac.

Sarkhan is a mythical ancient kingdom bordering on North Viet Nam. The young scholar, Prince Lin, is about to take over the 250-year-old throne of his neutralist country. The time is ripe for the Maoist subversives to move, both in the capital city of Haido and in the villages to the north. They attempt to do so, slyly and superbly trained. A Communist agent, high-

## HERB CAEN SAYS:

## We Didn't Do It, Belli Told by Stanford Press

PACIFIC TELL & TELL: Melvin Belli is so overwrought at the new anti-Bellum book, "The Trial of Jack Ruby" (by Law Profs Kaplan and Walz) that he dashed off a heated letter to Stanford University Press, demanding to know how it could "participate in such a deliberately defamatory project." Wrote back SUP: "Thanks for your letter, but the book is published by Macmillan, not us." The S. F. Film Festival, denounced as "square" by the hippies long before it opened (I was guilty, too), turned out to be a beautiful and wonderful success, especially the afternoon retrospective featuring the great old directors. There was a gay moment at one session when Ruby Keeler pouted to Mervyn Leroy: "And remember when you wanted me to do a swimming scene? I told you I couldn't swim and you pushed me in anyway." At which another historic director in the audience, William Wellman, leaped to his feet. "And I'd like you to meet the woman who did the swimming scenes for Ruby," he said, pointing to his right. "My wife!"

ECUMENICAL NOTE: Godfrey Lehman is favoring his Jewish friends with handsomely printed blue

## ROYCE BRIER

## Re-examination of Cuba Emigration Plan Needed

A Communist is not required to be forthright in his dealings with others, excepting other Communists. Often enough he is not forthright in his dealings with fellow-Communists, but his invariable perfidy is reserved for non-Communists, a practice advocated, but not invented, by Karl Marx. So when Fidel Castro announces freedom of emigration from his island, we must know it is only a wily gimmick and not what it looks to be.

Indeed, it was straightway seen that Castro would deny exit to young workers and to most of his citizenry. He wanted to rid himself of middle-class dissidents who had always been apathetic toward his revolution, though it was too dangerous actively to resist it.

So he would provide small boats to get these people to Florida, and the United

States agreed to accept them. The boats started crossing the 90 miles, and a few emigrants arrived in about 10 days, when suddenly they ceased arriving. Nobody knew why the traffic was stopped, but it couldn't be an accident, and if and when it resumes it won't be accidental.

Just why the United States should participate in such a capricious game, which can only be self-serving for Castro, was not clear from the beginning. As an immigration operation it lacked even the rudiments of prudent planning. How could our immigration men properly process such an influx, to determine if they are desirable residents, let alone desirable potential citizens? Most speak only Spanish, which suffices them in the Cuban colony

cards reading, "By Royal Decree: It is ordered by us: 'Extend the bearer full privileges of the Realm as he is absolved, now and his descendants in perpetuity, of any and all guilt in connection with the crime of Decide. By order, Ferdinand and Isabella. This absolute also covers retroactively all persons accused and burned by us during the late Inquisition, and their fires are thus EXTINGUISHED.'"

CAENDIL CAMERA: Notice on the bulletin board at San Jose State: "Lox and Bagel Brunch, Israeli Folk Dancing at Catholic Women's Center" . . . Restaurateur Alex's Merab and his love, London's Sue Reed, sharing mai tais at Trader Vic's, Alexis is just back from Madrid, where he laid plans for a restaurant to be called "Alexis of San Francisco." He admits: "My name doesn't mean anything there — yet — but everybody in Madrid loves San Francisco! . . . Tying with a raw steak and a bottle of Favel in the Palace's Garden Court: Igor Cassini, publisher of the gutzy new monthly, "Status" (pronounced "Status," please); "It's a most democratic magazine," he grinned. "My aim is to make snobs out of EVERYBODY!"

FOOTNOTE: Bob Orben scoffs at those "Make Love Not War" stickers. "I'm married," he says. "I can do both."

ADVICE to political candidates: "Evaluate your worth to the community and don't steal more than that" . . . Cliches rewritten: Neither a borrower nor a lender be and you'll destroy the capitalistic system; if the shoe pinches, wear it; if you keep your own hair when all about you are losing theirs, thank your lucky genes . . . Every time I'm tempted to use the editorial "we" instead of "I," I remember Mark Twain's advice: "We" should be used only by kings, editors and people with tapeworms. . . Dr. Russell Lee of Palo Alto has sold his 9300-acre "Rockpile Ranch" in Northern Sonoma County to the stars of "Bonanza"—Lorne Greene, Daniel Blocker, Michael Landon—for a touch more than \$1 million . . . A national magazine, preparing yet another spread on San Francisco, has sent me a long questionnaire which includes the query: "Which is the most important single group in S.F.?" After some thought, I replied "The Scavengers" — and don't laugh. You can't even imagine the mess we'd be in without 'em.

of Miami, but most were also impoverished, as is most of the Cuban colony. Moreover, what kept Castro from infiltrating his emigrants with his own Communist agents, carrying false papers

Inasmuch as former professional men who escaped from Castro without his consent are forced into manual labor, when they can get jobs at all, it seems obvious that these legal emigrants only add to the unemployed and the relief rolls.

What is so sacred about mass asylum today? True, the inscription on the Statue of Liberty speaks of "Your huddled masses yearning to be free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore . . ." but the inscription has been outlived by the economic and social problem presented.

Since 1820 about 43 million immigrants have been admitted to the United States. But these people were largely assimilable, left their homelands under conditions far different from those prevailing today, and the migration has been amazingly successful. Wisely, we have just relaxed the rigid immigration law of recent decades, but this does not mean it is wise to accept mere dumping by a cynical, treacherous and greedy dictator.

Our ready acceptance of Senor Castro's ploy seems highly quixotic and naive, and it needs re-examination.

## Quote

It is one thing to engage in deficit spending to meet an emergency and quite another to continue deficit spending in a period of national prosperity. Such a fiscal policy weakens the value of the dollar, intensifies the outflow of gold, and leaves us with little with which to meet possible emergencies. — Rep. Catherine May (R-Wash.)

If the life of a river depended only on the rainfall within the confines of its own banks, it would soon be dry. If the life of an individual depended solely on his own resources, he would soon fall. Be grateful for your tributaries. — William A. Ward, Meadowbrook (Tex.) Wesleyan College Herald.